

## REMARKS

Claims 11, 13, 43, 45, 47-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. PGPub 2003/0121027 ("Hines"). Claims 12 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hines in view of U.S. patent no. 5,167,022 to Bahr et al. Claims 30, 36, 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hines in view of U.S. patent no. 4,847,751 to Nakade et al. Claims 31-33, 37-39, 41-42, 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hines in view of Nakade and U.S. patent no. 5,386,517 to Sheth et al.


It is respectfully submitted that Hines is not prior art against the instant application because Hines' effective filing date is later than the applicant's earliest priority date.

Indeed, the instant application is a division of U.S. patent application 09/458,551 which is a division of U.S. patent application 09/055,033 filed April 3, 1998. See the filing receipt and the preliminary amendment filed with the application.

Hines' earliest priority date is his provisional application filing date of June 23, 2000. This date is later than the applicant's priority date.

If a fee is required for this submission, please charge the fee or any underpayment thereof, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 50-2257.

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Certificate of Transmission: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) via the USPTO's electronic filing system on March 3, 2009.	
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